

Generation Conservation



Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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Did you know. . .

Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to operate a TV for 3 hours. *Eco-Cycle*

A 1999 survey by the *Solid Waste Coordinators of Kentucky* found that 54% of all collected litter consisted of beverage containers, carriers, bottle caps, and pull-tabs.

Americans use 50 million tons of paper annually -- consuming more than 850 million trees.
www.library.thinkquest.org

The average American creates 4.5 pounds of garbage a day -- an amount doubled from 30 years ago.
www.thestoryofstuff.com

Americans represent only 5 percent of the world's population, but generate 30 percent of the world's trash. *America Recycles*

You may be wondering: What is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR)? The DNR is a government agency responsible for maintaining state parks and forests, protecting the environment, and managing energy, fish, wildlife, and land and water resources in Iowa. Since its cool to be "green," the DNR must be ice because we've been green since 1917! It is our mission to conserve and enhance our natural resources to improve the quality of life for all Iowans.

You may now be wondering: What is *Generation Conservation*? *Generation Conservation* is a newsletter intended to educate and inspire our readers in protecting our natural

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resources. It will give you tips on what you can do to help keep our state clean and green, as well as provide information on the latest events and programs available through the DNR.

The Career Spotlights section will introduce you to the many different careers in the natural resource field. As more and more people begin to realize how important natural resource conservation is to quality of life, more skilled workers are going to be needed to protect them.

I hope you enjoy the inaugural issue!

-Racheal Bradley

We want to hear from you!

If you have a story to tell about something you did to help the environment, send it in! It may just show up in the next issue!

E-mail me at:

Racheal.Bradley@dnr.iowa.gov

Or send them to:

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Attn: Racheal Bradley

502 E. 9th St.

Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

I look forward to hearing from you!

Together we CAN make a difference!



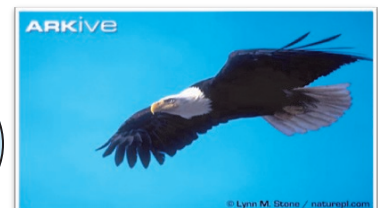
An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now!
www.recycling-revolution.com

Each year the U.S. population discards 16,000,000,000 diapers, 1,600,000,000 pens, 2,000,000,000 razor blades, 220,000,000 car tires, and enough aluminum to rebuild the U.S. commercial air fleet four times over.
www.recycling-revolution.com





SOARING HIGH IN IOWA'S SKIES



We all see images of the Bald Eagle on our money, government seals, and stamps. You may have even been lucky enough to spot one in the sky. Bald Eagles are the only eagle unique to North America. That is one of the reasons the Bald Eagle was chosen for our national emblem in 1782.

Even though the Bald Eagle has been the symbol of our nation for over 200 years, Americans have not always taken care of them. Before Europeans settled America, it is estimated that there were over half a million bald eagles in North America. As America was settled, the number of Bald Eagles quickly began to dwindle. A number of factors caused the Bald Eagle population to decrease, including: competition with settlers for food and habitat; settlers shooting eagles for their feathers; killing eagles out of unfounded fears that Bald Eagles could grab small children, or eat the livestock. In the 1900's, chemical pesticides killed many Bald Eagles; by the 1960's, there were less than 417 breeding pairs of Bald Eagles on the continental United States.

Thankfully, in 1973, the Bald Eagle was placed on the Endangered Species List, which helped to protect the eagles and allow their numbers to grow. Today, there are an estimated 10,000 breeding pairs spread throughout the lower 48 states. Here in Iowa, where the first new nesting pair was found in 1977, we have an estimated 210 breeding pairs located in 83 different counties.

The increased number of Bald Eagles means more chances for you to watch these magnificent birds in action! In Iowa, winter is the best time to observe eagles because thousands of eagles from northern states and Canada migrate south to find food.

The birds start arriving in Iowa during September and their numbers grow through January, depending on the harshness of the winter. Bald Eagle watching can be a very exciting experience and every Iowan should take advantage of the opportunity at least once! Here are some tips to make your experience better for you and the eagles:

- Nesting eagles are protected by law, so do not disturb them; remain $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the nesting eagles and view them from afar.
- Do not approach the nest, breeding eagles, or nesting tree during nesting season (January - July); use binoculars and a spotting scope instead of trying to get "a little bit closer."
- When viewing eagles, ***please stay in your vehicle*** unless you are visiting a staffed eagle observation deck! Your vehicle acts as an excellent blind (canopy).

- **Do not do anything to try and make the eagle fly!** People walking around or toward a perched eagle will chase it off its roost. The effort of flying depletes the needed energy an eagle requires to survive in the cold winter temperatures.
- Avoid loud noises, such as yelling, car door slamming, horn honking, and unnecessary movement.
- Nests are typically on private land, so do not trespass unless permission from the landowner has been granted.
- **Don't Litter...** take along a trash bag or other receptacle for collecting your trash so you can put it in the proper trash receptacle.

Your safety and respect for nature are of utmost importance when looking for Bald Eagles and helps protect and preserve this noble bird.



For a schedule of Bald Eagle watching events in your area go to:

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/missriver/default.htm>

DNR Careers Spotlight

Name: Ashley Gramza
Hometown: Pemberville, OH
Program: DNR AmeriCorps
Career: Wildlife Habitat Specialist

Since I was a young girl playing in the creeks and cornfields of NW Ohio, I have always been fascinated with snakes. I liked snakes so much because I could easily capture them to examine them closely. When I went to college, I turned my love of snakes and wildlife into a career!

I got my undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Wildlife Ecology, and am currently working on a Wildlife Biology master's degree at Colorado State University. I joined the DNR AmeriCorps program because I wanted to help preserve the vanishing tall grass prairie ecosystem on private lands by promoting farm bill conservation programs to north-central Iowa landowners. I served as a private lands Wildlife Habitat Specialist in Fort Dodge.

I've worked with crayfish in Wisconsin, timber and prairie rattlesnakes in Minnesota and Iowa, reptiles in Costa Rica, and now I'm working with bobcats, mountain lions, and domestic cats in Colorado. It's great to be paid to travel around the world to study wildlife!



With a little education, it's amazing how much good you can do!
 -Ashley Gramza, DNR AmeriCorps Wildlife Habitat Specialist

Through my snake research around the globe, I've learned a sad fact; many people hate and fear snakes. In order to change this, I've made sure to plan snake education programs wherever I live and work. My pet corn snake, Snakey, usually makes appearances at these programs as well. I want people to know that most snakes are harmless, and they play very important roles of both predator and prey in the environment.

When I worked in Costa Rica counting reptile species on organic chocolate farms, many of the townspeople were killing the snakes I was studying. It is difficult to get an accurate count of reptile species if they are being killed. Therefore, I set out to find out why people were killing snakes by interviewing as many people as possible. I found out that most people killed snakes because they were afraid of them. They thought that most snakes were poisonous, but the truth was that only about 10% of the local snakes were poisonous. After I found out what people knew about the snakes in their area, I developed an education program where I taught locals how to live safely with snakes. I also helped them identify snakes, and explained how important snakes are in ecosystems. After my program, instead of killing snakes, people would bring snakes to show me! With a little education, it's amazing how much good you can do!



What is DNR AmeriCorps?

DNR AmeriCorps members serve all over the state of Iowa. They serve in several natural resource positions, such as: wildlife management, park interpretation, forestry, marketing, conservation education, ecosystem restoration, and prairie seed harvesting.

Members must be over 17, possess a high school diploma or GED (or agree to earn one), and be a legal citizen.

Members serve for either 3, 6, or 12 months.

Members receive a living allowance, education award, and depending on length of service, health insurance.

In 2008, our members:

- Responded at the tornado and flood disaster areas
- Delivered environmental education programs to 23,537 Iowans and visitors
- Recruited over 1,002 volunteers who donated more than 5,037 hours of service
- Renovated 96 miles of trails in Iowa state parks and preserves
- Maintained 7,634 acres of public land
- Assisted 262 landowners and enrolled 1,297 acres of private land in conservation programs
- Performed 134 wildlife surveys

www.iowadnr.gov/volunteer/ameriCorps/index.html

or

www.ameriacorps.gov

AmeriCorps – Getting things done for America!



Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Leading Iowans in caring for our
natural resources.

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On the web:
www.iowadnr.gov

Friend us on Facebook!
[facebook.com/iowadnr](https://www.facebook.com/iowadnr)

Follow us on Twitter:
twitter.com/iowadnr

Educator's Corner - Natural Resource Opportunities for Educators

Exploring Iowa's Natural Resources February 15 - May 9, 2010

The goal of this twelve-week on-line class is to help you incorporate local natural resources into your curriculum. You will work in small groups and individually to create a network of contacts and resources to strengthen your knowledge about Iowa's natural resources. Participants are required to spend 5-6 hours per week on-line completing assignments and participating in group discussions.

For more information, contact: Shannon Hafner, 641/747-2051, Shannon.Hafner@dnr.iowa.gov

American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS)

AWLS allows educators of all types (teachers, scout leaders, etc.) to experience a variety of outdoor skills. If you are inexperienced in the outdoors and always wanted to learn, or if you are already at a higher level of outdoor skill, and want to learn more, AWLS is for you. It is co-sponsored by DNR and Safari Club International. Two workshops are held each summer.

AWLS I Activities: canoeing, prairie excursion, backpacking, fishing, plaster casting, orienteering, archery, pond life, rifle shooting, muzzle loading, and shotgun shooting

AWLS II Activities: biotechnology, water quality, fly-fishing, bird banding, trapping, canoeing, camping, and lure making

For more information, contact A. Jay Winter at 641/747-8383, or AJay.Winter@dnr.iowa.gov

For more information about these courses, or to find out about DNR's other educational opportunities, visit::

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/education/index.html>

Easy Green Living Tips

*Tips courtesy of
thedailygreen.com

- **Instead of Buying Bottled Water, Get a Refill.**



Ever see an empty water bottle tossed by the side of the road? Less than 20% of those single-use containers make it to the recycling bin. They also waste fuel for shipping — water is heavy! Get a cool metal bottle instead, fill it up when you're thirsty, and cut down on the expense and waste.

- **Put Together a Cool "Old School" Outfit.**

Impress your friends with your fab style sense when you show up to school in a vintage outfit (you can find gently used clothing for a steal at thrift stores and garage sales). Or have recycle parties and trade clothes you don't want for your friends clothes they don't want anymore. Save money and protect the earth!

- **When You're Done Surfing the Internet and IMing, Turn Your Computer Off.**

If you shut your machine off before bedtime, you'll save an average of \$90 worth of electricity a year — tell your parents that, and ask for a raise in your allowance! If you must leave your computer on, tell it to go into "sleep" or "hibernate" mode, which saves power.

- **Download (Legally!) the Latest Album from an Eco-friendly Star.**



John Mayer. Kanye West. Dave Matthews Band. A number of today's hottest musicians are also going green in big ways, by running tour buses on clean-burning biodiesel and recycling all their show waste. Do your part by buying music online, which cuts out waste from shipping and all those CDs and cases.

- **Earn Great Grades! (Mother Nature Needs Smart People to Help Protect Her)**



Sure, you've heard it a million times before: it pays to stay in school. Here's one more reason: human population, and consumption rates, continue to swell, while habitat for wildlife shrinks. Global warming, ozone damage and acid rain are scary stuff. Humankind can right a lot of our wrongs and invent new technology to live lighter on the Earth, but it will take a lot of smarts.

If you can make these small changes, they can add up to BIG BUCKS for you and help protect the environment for everyone!

